

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE MILITARY FAMILIES OF THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION DURING "THE WEEK OF THE EAGLES"

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Army, based at Fort Campbell, a portion of which I am honored to represent in this chamber. This week marks the biennial celebration known as "The Week of the Eagles," when we acknowledge the immeasurable contributions to our country from the current, veteran and fallen members of the 101st Airborne Division and their families, all of whom have made great personal sacrifices in service to our Nation.

The inspiration for the book and television mini-series "The Band of Brothers," the Screaming Eagles have historically played prominent roles in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm. They were instrumental in successes in Operation Anaconda, a tough early front in the War on Terrorism in Afghanistan. They have also answered the call of duty repeatedly to serve in Iraq, and many of these courageous men and women will deploy to Iraq again later this year.

The tradition of "The Week of the Eagles" began in 1973 when the Screaming Eagles returned home from the Vietnam War and held a community festival to showcase the division's combat readiness. The celebration was resurrected in 1996 by 101st Airborne Division Commander Major General William Kernan to remember those service members who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the United States Army. We now celebrate "The Week of the Eagles" biennially to both honor the fallen troops and their families and showcase the readiness of the 101st Airborne's mighty combat units.

I trust that, even if there is healthy difference of opinion among some of our colleagues and the international community about the civilian leadership of the United States Armed Forces, every member of this body supports those families who are bravely serving our country and is proud of the families of the 101st Airborne Division, whose efforts throughout the division's long and storied history have served our country well.

Madam Speaker, I join you and our colleagues in the House of Representatives in honoring the 101st Airborne Division, thanking the Screaming Eagles and their families for their dedication and patriotism, remembering those 101st Airborne members who have given their lives in service to our country, and recognizing "The Week of the Eagles."

IN HONOR OF THE STUDENT GRADUATES OF ORADELL'S D.A.R.E. PROGRAM

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 14th, I participated in the D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony in Oradell, New Jersey. More than 100 elementary school students participated in this important program that gives young people the support they need to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our Nation's school districts and in more than 43 other nations. It uses positive peer pressure to help children defeat the negative cultural influences that bombard them daily.

I am proud of the young boys and girls who participated in this program in Oradell, and I would like to recognize them all for taking this step toward positive citizenship: Rachel Bahng, Shamus Barnes, Edward Caiazzo, Christie Candrilli, Nicole Carney, Estee Chaimson, Christopher Colon, Colleen Dakay, Phillip Giuffre, Kandai Iso, Dana Johnson, Tyler Kane, Kevin Loh, Hayley Murphy, Gerard Quinn, Laura Rivera, Julia Shats, Griffin Suess, Gabriela Valenzuela, Mark Wittkamp, Anna Yasouka, Haylee Alonso, Ashley Anzalone, Esther Bae, Ryan Bauman, Troy Bendian, Thomas Browning, Liam Cameron, Raymond Cannarozzi.

Daniel Christmann, Marissa Conti, Melanie Culha, Conor Davidson, Hunter DeGregorio, Ciara Enright, Jacqueline Galbraith, Daniel Gladston, Kevin Hanrahan, Emily Hyman, Tyler Kallensee, Maria Karim, Emily McGovern, Dillon Ross, Cathy Antonelli, Michael Bruno, Lauren Chagachbanian, Michelle Chakansky, Katie Dantoni, Gianni DaSilva, Sumie Kakehi.

Adam Kunkel, Emily Lewis, David Lo, Robbie Lombardi, Brett Lubben, Kayleen Melvin, Emily O'Boyle, Emily Reynolds, Andrew Rivera, Hannah Schultz, Alissa Settembrino, Sara Starr, Meghana Yarde, Ryan Zaccaria, Chris Bastable, Taylor Bavlitschko, Jack Bertini, Tyler Bisig, Scott Callison, Emily Croonquist, Cami Didio, Sharon Galperin, Gregory Gerbino, Michelle Hao, Colleen Kelly, Natalie Ortega, Michael Santucci, Samantha Sender, Madeline Toohey.

Jessica Toufayan, Melonie Ward, Rebecca Weimer, Austin Williams, Zack Wynne, Kaitlyn Brady, Alexandra Braun, Daniel DaSilva, Kalette deMarras, Jared Finkel, Ryan Gallow, Rebecca Goldstein, Martin Gross, Sonya Koh, Simon Kramer, Meagan McCorry, Emanuel Nobile, David Pagan, Daniel Ross, Ana Song, Maryssa Spiniella, David Tirelli, Karen Triunfo, Rebecca Wasserman, and Brenna Wiegand.

IN HONOR OF MS. BARBARA KING

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I wish to acknowledge an outstanding community leader from Ohio's Third Congressional District.

Ms. Barbara King was recently honored as a recipient of the 2006 Community Ambassador Awards, presented by the Dayton/Montgomery County Convention & Visitors Bureau. This prestigious award was given in honor of Ms. King's dedication to her community, and for her efforts in coordinating the Sesqui-centennial Conference of the Wilberforce University Alumni Association.

Wilberforce University is the Nation's oldest, private African-American university, and last year this unique institution commemorated its 150th anniversary. Ms. King was recently elected national president of the Wilberforce University Alumni Association, and she chose the city of Dayton as the site for the school's 2006 Alumni Conference.

She was selected for her work in bringing over 400 Wilberforcean alumni and friends to downtown Dayton. Ms. King was selected as a 2006 Community Ambassador by the Dayton/Montgomery County Convention & Visitors Bureau at its 15th Annual Community Ambassador Awards Breakfast.

Ms. King is an active member of the General Daniel "Chappie" James American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 776, in Riverside Ohio. She also serves as one of five faculty advisors in the Department of Early Childhood Education, ECE, at Sinclair Community College.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize a remarkable citizen, Ms. Barbara King, for her leadership and dedication to our community, and I congratulate her on receiving this prestigious award.

COPS IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1700, the Community Oriented Policing Services, or C.O.P.S., Program Reauthorization Act. The bill authorizes appropriations of more than \$1.1 billion for community policing, community prosecutors and crime-fighting technology grants. The original mission of this program was simple: put 100,000 more police officers on the beat for policing programs. The brainchild of the Clinton administration, the C.O.P.S. program brought members from both parties together with the goal of reducing crime.

The C.O.P.S. program provides grants to local municipalities for crime fighting technologies and for additional community policing

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and has been proven to reduce crime, especially violent crime. A 2005 study by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) concluded that the C.O.P.S. program contributed to a 1.3 percent decline in the overall crime rate and a 2.5 percent reduction in the violent crime rate in 8 years.

But like a patient that stops taking the medication once it starts working, the Bush administration has been taking a step back in law enforcement and homeland security in its effort to gut the program. We must not rest on our laurels and declare, "Mission Accomplished." The President has declared we live in an age of terrorism, and expanding the police force and providing our local and state governments with resources to combat crime and terrorism should remain a priority. But for years, with the backing of the Republican-led Congress, the President has sought to cut or eliminate funding for the program.

In Fiscal Year 2008, the Bush administration is proposing to cut the C.O.P.S. program by over 94 percent compared to 2007. Congress appropriated \$542 million for the program in FY07, and the President is proposing only \$32 million for FY08. The yearly program funding once peaked at \$1.4 billion dollars per year under the Clinton administration. It has resulted in the hiring of nearly 120,000 police officers and has prevented over 200,000 crimes since its inception. In contrast, the Bush administration's proposal offers zero funding for community based prosecutors, zero funding for crime fighting technologies, and only \$4 million for policing and public safety grants.

Instead of providing funding for more cops on the beat, the President is handing the C.O.P.S. program a bill for funds unspent in previous years. The \$32 million budget request, minus the \$87 million the Administration is hoping to get back from the C.O.P.S. program, results in negative funding for community policing. Proponents of weakening the program will attempt to explain that the C.O.P.S. program is duplicative, but a review of the Bush administration's FY08 budget request reveals that the administration also is reducing funding for those other programs as well. It makes no sense to eviscerate the successful C.O.P.S. program or roll it into a block grant, particularly when Department of Justice estimates are showing a rise in crime.

As it seeks to eliminate the C.O.P.S. program, the Bush administration is pursuing a misguided goal. I commend Congressman WEINER (D-NY) for bringing this bill forward today, I strongly support the C.O.P.S. program, and I urge adoption of the legislation.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM THOMAS BENNETT

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of my friend, Bill Bennett, who died last week at 84 years young.

I met Bill and his wife, Marty, when I decided to run for Congress more than 20 years ago. We shared a love of politics, a dedication to our communities and country, and a love and dedication to our families.

Born in West Virginia, Bill Bennett came to California while serving in the U.S. Navy. Like

many who venture to the Golden State, he fell in love and stayed. After being discharged from the Navy, Bill joined the Los Angeles City Fire Department. It would prove to be one of his long-term commitments. He retired from the Department 31 years later as Assistant Chief, in 1980.

Another of his long-term commitments was to Marty. They married in 1951 and partnered in life for the next 56 years.

In 1965, Bill and Marty moved with their children to Thousand Oaks, which I have represented for the better part of my congressional career. They became involved in their church, Emmanuel Presbyterian, and many other aspects of their community. Bill served on the board of the former Timber School District, Community Leaders Club, Republican Central Committee, Ventura County Grand Jury, Ventura County Planning Committee, Neighborhood Watch, and many other community organizations, for which he was duly recognized. He also became a supporter and friend to me.

At the same time Bill was making his community a better place, he dedicated himself to being a loving father and husband. In addition to Marty, Bill leaves behind daughter, Sue and her husband, Kim Force; daughter, Nancy and her husband, Jim Berg; daughter, Bonnie; and son Tom and his wife, Jane. Bill and Marty also have seven grandchildren, Michael, Christopher, Joshua, Brian, Janelle, Jilee and Justine; and two great-grandchildren, Hannah and Emily.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in remembering William Thomas Bennett as a good friend, a loving family man, and a lover of life, whose talents helped to make our community stronger. In addition, I know they join me in extending our condolences to Marty and their family and to all who called Bill a friend.

Godspeed, Bill.

COPS IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the COPS Reauthorization Act (H.R. 1700). This critical piece of legislation is needed to revitalize the highly successful COPS program and will allow communities in Rhode Island and across the country to hire additional police officers and improve security.

This important initiative was created in 1994 under the Clinton Administration to help local law enforcement agencies hire thousands of additional police officers nationwide. COPS funding has helped police agencies in Rhode Island to hire 385 police officers, and today's measure will allow us to hire an additional 185 officers.

The COPS program takes an innovative approach to aiding local law enforcement agencies through its commitment to community-oriented policing and has proven successful in reducing crime. Unfortunately, in the past few years the Bush Administration and Republican-led Congress have continued to slash funding for this vital program, and the President's FY 2008 budget proposal would elimi-

nate it altogether. I am proud to support a measure that halts this trend and reinstates funding for this vital program.

The COPS Reauthorization Act will establish the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services as a distinct entity within the U.S. Department of Justice and reauthorize hiring programs for officers to engage in community policing, serve as School Resource Officers, and engage in counterterrorism duties. This bill will also provide additional funding for police agencies to purchase lap top computers for patrol cars, crime mapping software, and interoperable communications equipment. Finally, reauthorizing the COPS program will increase funding for critical community prosecuting programs.

Enhancing and fully funding COPS programs will give our local law enforcement agencies the tools they need to fight crime and keep our communities safe. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

JAMES A. LEACH FEDERAL BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1505 to designate the Federal building located at 131 East 4th Street in Davenport, Iowa, as the "James A. Leach Federal Building."

James Leach was born in Davenport, Iowa in 1942. Representing Iowa, he served in the House of Representatives for 30 years. Mr. Leach is a man of great honor, serving his state and country nobly, admirably and tirelessly. Mr. Leach was a career public servant, chairing several Committees during his time in Congress.

During his time in Congress, Mr. Leach respected individual rights, choices and freedoms and voted to protect them. In the 109th Congress, I had the good fortune of working with him on the International Relations Committee where he spoke often for dignity of mankind and human rights. Jim was a caring and compassionate hands on person who led a congressional delegation to western Indonesia after the December 26th, 2004 tsunami where he witnessed one of the most traumatic natural disasters in the past several centuries. His work was instrumental in securing disaster relief funds for this devastated area.

Mr. Leach holds eight honorary degrees, has received decorations from two foreign governments, and is the recipient of the Wayne Morse Integrity in Politics Award, the Woodrow Wilson Award from Johns Hopkins University, the Adlai Stevenson Award from the United Nations Association, and the Edger Wayburn Award from the Sierra Club. In 2000, the Independent Bankers Association honored James Leach by creating "The James A. Leach Leadership Award", named for the Iowa Congressman. Mr. Leach served as chairman of the House Banking Committee from 1995 to 2001. The James A. Leach Leadership Award honors bankers for outstanding service to the banking industry. These examples exemplify his respect as a person and public servant.

Madam Speaker, today I have the privilege in joining my colleagues in honoring this distinguished gentleman and good friend by designating the U.S. courthouse located on 131 East 4th Street in Davenport, Iowa, as the "James A. Leach United States Courthouse".

A TRIBUTE TO DIXON OSBURN

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to C. Dixon Osburn, who, as co-founder and Executive Director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), led the national movement to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" for the past fourteen years. Under his leadership, SLDN has moved our nation many miles closer to its goal of freedom to serve in our Nation's Armed Forces without regard to sexual orientation.

It has been my honor to work with Dixon for many years to improve the lives of lesbian, gay and bisexual service members. Our work is not done, but one day "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" will take its place among the relics of history and be replaced by a fairer, better policy that truly honors the patriotism of all Americans. And we will remember Dixon and the foundation he built with Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

I wish Dixon all the best in his future endeavors, and I thank him for his significant contribution to improving our Nation's Armed Forces.

HONORING ACACIA MASONIC LODGE #163

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to congratulate the Acacia Masonic Lodge of Martin County, Florida on their 100th anniversary and commend them for all the good work they do throughout the community.

This very special anniversary in Florida's 16th District makes the Acacia Masonic Lodge, #163 of Free and Accepted Masons, the oldest organization in Martin County. Knowing what good work they do in the area, I wanted to honor them by highlighting some of their achievements.

Graduating seniors from all of Martin County's high schools, sick children in local hospitals and senior citizens residing in local residential homes are just a few of the beneficiaries of the Acacia Masons' charity. Over the years, they have donated over \$100,000 to worthy causes throughout Martin County.

Not only have the Acacia Masons given financial support to Martin County, they have also been a visible bastion of good work in our community. Since 1964, the Acacia Masons have laid the cornerstone of every Martin County public school, symbolizing the value they place on education for all the children in the area.

The Masons' motto is, "Take a good man and make him a better man." Having met

many of them personally, I can confirm that the Free Masons in Martin County are certainly practicing what they preach; and judging by the strength of their organization, I am certain they will still be supporting the Martin County community a hundred years from now.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending the Acacia Masonic Lodge for a century of unwavering commitment and support of Martin County and all who reside there.

HONORING BURGESS (B.J.) ETZEL

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a life-long Texan, a personal friend, and a great leader in our community. Burgess Etzel, or B.J. as most of us know him, was born in Roundtop, Texas. After finishing high school there, he went on to attend Blinn College, and then to my alma mater, the University of Houston.

After graduation, B.J. began his work in the communications industry. Hired as a cable splicing helper in 1957 in what was then the Plant Department in Houston, he continued this work until 1969. At that time he was transferred to Network Operations as a Communications Technician.

In 1987, after serving as Job, Chief, and District Stewards for over two decades, B.J. was elected President of the Communications Workers of America Local 6222. In this position, he represented over 7,000 bargaining unit employees working for SWB Telephone, SWB Yellow Pages, SWB Wireless, AT&T, Lucent Technologies, and printing sector in metro Houston and surrounding areas in the Southeast Texas region.

Despite his busy schedule as President of the CWA Local 6222, B.J. also found time to serve on the board of trustees of the United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast, and raise four children with his wife Frances.

B.J. has served as a leader in all phases of local organizing drives, and all legislative and community service work. I would like to thank B.J. for his service to the CWA and its members, and congratulate him for having the flag pole dedicated to him on May 19, 2007.

BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the over 3 million women living with breast cancer, in strong support of the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. Breast cancer remains the leading cause of death among women between the ages of 40 and 55. My sister-in-law was among them, having died at the age of only 41. While important advances have been made, we still do not know what causes this disease, or how to prevent it.

Scientific evidence as to the role the environment plays in the development of breast

cancer is scarce. There is a clear need for research on the relationship between environmental factors and breast cancer. The Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act would facilitate such research by establishing a national strategy to study the link between the environment and breast cancer by creating multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary centers that study the environmental factors that contribute to the disease.

Although there are currently 221 cosponsors, this legislation has yet to have a hearing in committee. If we are going to make a serious commitment to preventing and curing breast cancer we must pass this legislation so that one day we can announce that our mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends are free of this disease.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill and pass the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING OF SERGEANT TIMOTHY PADGETT, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor SGT Timothy Padgett, United States Army. Sergeant Padgett, known as Timmy, gave his life in defense of our Nation while serving in Tarin Kwot, Afghanistan, on May 8, 2007. Sergeant Padgett was serving as a Green Beret with the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group based in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Timmy was raised in DeFuniak Springs, Florida, and graduated from Walton High School in 1997. A former firefighter paramedic with the South Walton Fire District, our local paper, the Northwest Florida Daily News, reported "A lot of firefighters knew him well, and the close-knit group is taking the news of his death real hard, said Deputy Fire Chief Sean Hughes. 'He was a great guy,' Hughes said. Most people knew Padgett by his big smile, which he almost always wore. His fellow firefighters often called him 'smiling Tim,' Hughes said."

Timmy's mother, Glenda Penton, resides in DeFuniak Springs and has been remarkably steady since her son's passing. I spoke with Glenda two days after the horrible news and she was gracious and proud of her son. I was so impressed and inspired by her. I don't know if I could have been the same way so soon after learning of the loss of a loved one.

I am always reminded of the greatness of our country due to the resiliency of people like Glenda Penton and the bravery of people like her son Timmy. We have an all volunteer military and continue to ask our sons and daughters to travel to faraway lands to fight for our freedom and these sons and daughters continue to answer the call.

The people of DeFuniak Springs have reason to be proud of Sergeant Padgett, and I am humbled to be able to represent those people, as well as the memory of Sergeant Padgett, for am I equally proud. Vicki and I will keep Timmy's entire family, especially his 8 year-old daughter, Summer Lynn, in our

thoughts and prayers. I hope all the people of Northwest Florida and our Nation do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 14, 2007, I was unable to cast several votes because I was meeting with Forest Service and fire fighting personnel to assess the hazardous situation and current evacuation of several areas in the Fourth Congressional District threatened by wildfires.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 342, the D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant Program Reauthorization; "yea" on rollcall 343, Supporting National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims; and "yea" on rollcall 344, Recognizing National AmeriCorps Week.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to make the following rollcall votes on May 14, 2007:

H.R. 1124, To extend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, I would have voted "nay."

H. Res. 223, Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, I would have voted "aye."

H. Res. 385, Recognizing National AmeriCorps Week, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, I would have voted "aye."

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL AMUSEMENT PARK RIDE SAFETY ACT OF 2007

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, Memorial Day is the beginning of the season when American families take their children to our amusement parks for a day of fun and sun. Unfortunately, it is also the case that over 75 percent of the serious injuries suffered on these rides occur between the months of May and September. Most of America thinks that the rides at these parks are subject to oversight by the Nation's top consumer safety watchdog—the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). But this is not true. The industry was subject to federal safety regulation, but in 1981 it succeeded in carving out a special-interest political exemption in the law—the so-called Roller Coaster Loophole.

It is time to put the safety of our children first—it is time to close the Roller Coaster

Loophole. Today I am introducing the National Amusement Park Ride Act to restore safety oversight to a largely unregulated industry. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by Representatives JAN SCHAKOWSKY (D-IL), CHARLIE RANGEL (D-NY), JIM MCGOVERN (D-MA), EL-EANOR HOLMES NORTON (D-DC), CAROLYN MALONEY (D-NY) and ANNA ESHOO (D-CA).

"Fixed" or "fixed-site" rides are found predominantly in destination theme parks. When an accident occurs on such rides, the law actually prevents the CPSC from even setting foot in the park to find out what happened. In some States, an investigation may occur, but in many, there is literally no regulatory oversight at all. And no matter how diligent a particular state might be, there is no substitute for Federal oversight of an industry where park visitors often come from out-of-state; a single manufacturer will sell versions of the same ride to park operators in many different States; and no state has the jurisdiction, resources or mission to ensure that the safety lessons learned within its borders are shared systematically with every other State.

Although the overall risk of death on an amusement park ride is very small, it is not zero. Sixty-four deaths have occurred on amusement park rides since 1987, and over two-thirds occur on "fixed-site" rides in our theme parks. In August 1999, 4 deaths occurred on roller coasters in just one week, "one of the most calamitous weeks in the history of America's amusement parks," according to U.S. News and World Report:

Every one of these is an unspeakable horror for the families, and every one of them deserves to be investigated by a Federal safety expert with the knowledge and the power to ensure that what happened at the accident site does not get repeated in other states.

It is simply inexcusable that when a loved one dies or is seriously injured on these rides, there is no system in place to ensure that the ride is investigated, the causes determined, and the flaws fixed, not just on that ride, but on every similar ride in every other State. The reason this system does not exist is the Roller Coaster Loophole.

The industry attempts to justify its special-interest exemption by pretending that there is no risk in riding machines that carry human beings 70, 80 or 90 miles an hour. The rides are very short, and most people are not injured. But in fact, the number of fatalities per passenger mile on roller coasters is higher than on passenger trains, passenger buses, and passenger planes. The National Safety Council uses a standard method of comparing risk of injury per distance traveled. Riding on a roller coaster is generally safer than driving a car, but is not generally safer than riding a passenger bus, train or airplane:

Fatalities are just the tip of problem, however. Broken bones, gashes, and other serious injuries have been rising much faster than attendance. The CPSC is prohibited from requiring the submission of injury data directly from ride operators, so it is forced to fall back on an indirect method, the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS), which gathers information from a statistical sample of hospital emergency rooms and then estimates national numbers. Nevertheless, NEISS has been gathering these statistics systematically over many years, so that trends become clear over time.

Beginning in 1996, a sharp upward trend can be seen in hospital emergency room visits

by passengers on unregulated "fixed" rides—the category of rides exempt from CPSC regulation under the Roller Coaster Loophole. These injuries soared 96 percent over the next 5 years. Meanwhile, such emergency room visits were falling for passengers on rides that the CPSC still regulates.

The theme park industry likes to tell the public that its rides are safer than the mobile rides because they are overseen by a permanent park staff, but according to this independent government safety agency report, the mobile parks have less of an injury problem than the theme parks.

For the most part, these rides are designed, operated and ridden safely. But clearly, the margin for error is much narrower for a child on a ride traveling at 100 mph than on a ride traveling 50 mph. Children often do foolish things, and the operators themselves are often teenagers. People make mistakes. The design of these rides must anticipate that their patrons will act like children, because they often are children.

The bill we are introducing today will close the loophole that prevents effective Federal safety oversight of amusement park rides. It would, therefore, restore to the CPSC the standard safety jurisdiction over "fixed-site" amusement park rides that it used to have before the Roller Coaster Loophole was adopted. There would no longer be an artificial and unjustifiable split between unregulated "fixed-site" rides and regulated "mobile" rides. When a family traveled to a park anywhere in the United States, a mother or father would know that their children were being placed on a ride that was subject to basic safety regulation by the CPSC.

It would restore CPSC's authority to investigate accidents; develop and enforce action plans to correct defects, and act as a national clearinghouse for accident and defect data.

The bill would also authorize appropriations of \$500,000 annually to enable the CPSC to carry out the purposes of the Act.

The bill I am introducing today is supported by the Nation's leading consumer-protection advocates, including Saferparks.org, the Consumer Federation of America, the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, and Kids in Danger.

I urge my colleagues to join us in this effort to make this the safest summer ever in our theme parks. Let's pass the National Amusement Park Ride Safety Act.

CONGRATULATING THE DAYTON NAACP YOUTH COUNCIL

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize and congratulate the members of the Dayton, OH branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, for its positive accomplishments on behalf of our young people.

On Saturday, April 14, 2007, the Dayton NAACP Youth Council, under the guidance of Youth Advisor Barbara Mack, hosted its first annual Youth Leadership Summit 100 at Sinclair Community College. The NAACP Youth Council is an organization involving some

67,000 youth nationwide, whose mission is to educate, motivate, and inspire civic-minded young people to become effective community leaders. The Dayton chapter is the first NAACP Youth Council in the State of Ohio to host an annual youth leadership summit. The theme of this year's event is: "In It To Win It." The summit consisted of a series of panel discussions to inform and educate the community on timely topics ranging from violence and drug activity in the community, to health, political action and finances, faith and the community, and youth with disabilities.

Under the leadership of Barbara Mack, the Dayton NAACP Youth Council has earned recognition from the national organization for its recent accomplishments. The Dayton chapter ranked first among NAACP Youth Councils in the seven-State Midwestern region for signing up the most new members. The recruitment of 122 new members increased the total membership to over 600—strong, giving the council more clout at the national level. As a reward for their efforts, 15 members of the Youth Council attended the 38th annual NAACP Image Awards held at the Shrine Auditorium on March 2, 2007 in Los Angeles, which was broadcast live on FOX.

I am proud to acknowledge the Dayton NAACP Youth Council on the success of its inaugural Leadership Summit, and congratulate Barbara Mack for her leadership on behalf of the young people of Ohio's Third Congressional District.

HONORING THE MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION IN PASSAIC COUNTY AND THE DISTINGUISHED HONOREES OF ITS 4TH ANNUAL VISION AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS DINNER

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Mental Health Association in Passaic County for its outstanding dedication to the well-being of the people of Passaic. For two decades, the committed staff and volunteers of this organization have provided County residents with the services and support that they need to take care of themselves. From a listening ear to prescription drugs and therapy to education and public awareness efforts, the Mental Health Association serves Passaic residents from childhood to retirement, often without payment for all they provide.

At their Fourth Annual Vision and Achievement Awards Dinner tonight, the Mental Health Association in Passaic County will honor seven tremendous citizens whose individual efforts also work to support the well-being of Passaic residents. Each, in his or her own way, helps to make the quality of life in this North Jersey community top-notch, and I wish to recognize them all for their outstanding accomplishments:

Mohamed El Filali, Outreach Director at the Islamic Center of Passaic County and the Muslim Chaplain at the Passaic County Jail.

Sister Gloria Perez, Executive Director of Eva's Kitchen and Sheltering Programs.

Dr. Steven D. Rose, President of Passaic County Community College.

Dr. Sybil C. Schreiber, Executive Director of the Passaic County Mental Clinic.

Jerry Speziale, Passaic County Sheriff.

Jack McElligott, a licensed clinical social worker and member of the Board of Directors of the Mental Health Association in Passaic County.

Linda Shapiro, a loving wife and mother and volunteer for the Mental Health Association in Passaic County.

It is an honor to recognize the public service of these seven individuals and all the men and women who make the Mental Health Association in Passaic County such an important part of the Passaic community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GLOBAL WARMING WILDLIFE SURVIVAL ACT

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, as the chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, I am very much aware of the need to take action to address global warming, and I recently held a hearing to examine the impact of climate change on many of the agencies and resources under my subcommittee's jurisdiction. At the beginning of that hearing, I stated my belief that climate change may be the emerging issue of our time. Climate change may alter the face of our planet in ways we cannot yet comprehend, and I believe it is our responsibility not only to do as much as possible to halt or slow it, but also to do everything in our power to protect the earth's resources from its impacts so that future generations will be able to benefit from them as we and past generations have done.

Our Nation's wildlife is one critically important resource that is particularly vulnerable to climate change and is also a resource that is a fundamental part of America's history and character. Conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat is a core value shared by all Americans.

America's wildlife is vital to our Nation for many reasons. Wildlife conservation provides economic, social, educational, recreational, emotional, and spiritual benefits. The economic value of hunting, fishing, and wildlife-associated recreation alone is estimated to contribute \$100 billion annually to the U.S. economy. Wildlife habitat, including forests, grasslands, riparian lands, wetlands, rivers and other water bodies, is an essential component of the American landscape, and is protected and valued by Federal, State, and local governments, tribes, private landowners, and conservation organizations.

Unfortunately, it is becoming increasingly apparent that the effect of climate change on wildlife will be profound. The recently released reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC have made clear that global warming is occurring, that it is exacerbated by human activity, and that it will have devastating impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat. Wildlife is already suffering from massive changes in habitat, particularly in the arctic, and shifts in ranges and timing of migration and breeding cycles. Continued global warming could lead to large-scale species

extinctions. These impacts add to and compound the adverse effects wildlife and its habitat already suffer from land development, energy development, road construction, and other human activities, and from other threats such as invasive species and disease.

According to the IPCC, global warming and associated sea level rise will continue for centuries due to the timescales associated with climate processes and feedbacks, even if greenhouse gas concentrations are stabilized now or in the very near future. I believe that, as a nation, we must craft responses and mechanisms now to help wildlife navigate the threats caused by global warming.

To conserve wildlife in the face of the far-reaching effects of global warming, there is a need for a coordinated, national strategy based on sound scientific information to ensure that impacts on wildlife that span government jurisdictions are effectively addressed and to ensure that Federal funds are prudently committed. Ensuring strategic and efficient allocation of funding is something of particular interest to me as an appropriator.

Today I am introducing the "Global Warming Wildlife Survival Act" as a first step in ensuring our Nation is using all possible means to help America's wildlife survive the impacts of global warming.

The "Global Warming Wildlife Survival Act" has four elements:

First, it includes a congressional declaration of national policy recognizing that global warming is having profound impacts on wildlife and its habitat and committing the Federal Government, in cooperation with State, tribal and local governments and other concerned organizations, to use all practicable means to assist wildlife in adapting to and surviving the effects of global warming.

Second, the bill requires development of a national strategy for assisting wildlife impacted by global warming developed by the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretaries of Agriculture and Commerce, States, tribes, local governments, conservation organizations and scientists, and coordinated with State wildlife action plans, the national fish habitat action plan, and other relevant wildlife conservation plans. A committee of scientists is established to advise the Secretary in development of the national strategy. The Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture and Commerce are charged with implementing the national strategy on Federal lands and in conservation programs they administer.

Third, the bill will support improved science capacity for Federal agencies to respond to global warming, including establishment of a National Global Warming and Wildlife Science Center in the United States Geological Survey, and enhanced science capacity in Federal land management and wildlife agencies.

Finally, the bill directs strategic allocation of funding for implementation of the national strategy and State and tribal actions to enhance wildlife resilience to global warming. The Act allocates Federal funding to implement the National Strategy 45 percent to Federal land management agencies, 25 percent to federally funded and implemented fish and wildlife programs, and 30 percent to States. I am very pleased to say that the State and tribal funding allocated in the bill is made available through the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program. The bill also authorizes the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program

which was created by our subcommittee in the fiscal year 2001 Interior appropriations bill as an upstream solution to help conserve species before they decline to the point where they need Endangered Species Act protection. Now this important program, and the comprehensive State wildlife action plans that were required for states to get funding, will be on the forefront of our Nation's efforts to help mitigate the impacts of global warming on wildlife.

This bill will help ensure that the pressing needs that are faced by the agencies and programs under the Interior and Environment appropriations subcommittee to help wildlife and wildlife habitat are addressed strategically, based on a foundation of sound scientific information, and that funding is allocated among the Federal agencies and the States in the most efficient way possible.

As I introduce this important bill, I also have one additional very significant point to make about funding to address impacts to wildlife from global warming. As Congress moves forward in considering comprehensive legislation to address global warming, it is possible that new sources of funding for the Federal Government will be generated. For example, in legislation to cap greenhouse gas emissions, it is likely that a system of emissions credits that can be traded would be created. In the process, there is an opportunity to auction some of these credits, producing substantial revenue for the Federal Treasury. Although the "Global Warming Wildlife Survival Act" as I am introducing it authorizes funding to implement the provisions of the bill, I believe that a portion of any revenues that will be generated by upcoming global warming legislation should be specifically dedicated to implement the provisions of the "Global Warming Wildlife Survival Act."

The Interior and Environment appropriations subcommittee allocation is woefully stressed just dealing with the current needs of the agencies and programs under its jurisdiction. Our Federal land management agencies have tremendous backlogs for operations and maintenance of our national wildlife refuges, parks, forests and other public lands. This situation has been greatly exacerbated by the past 6 years of Bush administration budgets and prior Congresses. Hundreds of important biologist positions have been cut, and the agencies' budgets are far below what they have needed just to keep up with inflation. These programs have been starved to the point where they are on life support. It became apparent in the recent hearing on global warming held by the subcommittee that the land management agencies are already seeing the results of climate change on the ground, but that they have few, if any, resources to deal with these changes. With the effects of global warming only expected to increase in severity in the coming years, I believe it is crucial to infuse dedicated new funding into our efforts to address this crisis, and I will work to make this happen.

This is a great Nation with a unique and irreplaceable natural heritage. We must take steps now to protect our wonderful wildlife from the ravages of climate change.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH YODER

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Keith Yoder of Kalamazoo, Michigan for his 32 years of distinguished public service with the Social Security Administration.

Keith began his career with Social Security in July 1975 as a Claims Authorizer in Philadelphia, PA. While it would take 25 years for Keith to make his way to our corner of Southwest Michigan, he continued to develop an impressive professional track record throughout Indiana and Michigan.

Over the past 7 years, Keith has managed the Social Security field office in Kalamazoo, from which he and his staff have faithfully served the residents of Allegan, Kalamazoo and St. Joseph counties. During an age in which government bureaucracy has too often become synonymous with the impersonal and lethargic, Keith and, under direction, his team have always been a reliable, informative and affable resource for my constituents and staff. His support of shelter-based and follow-up assistance to the Hurricane Katrina evacuees who made their way to my district in 2005 serves as a testament to both the good will and dedication that characterize his career.

Once again, I would like to personally congratulate and thank Keith Yoder for his many years of public service to the citizens of this great country. Southwest Michigan is truly a better place because of his contributions.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the memory of former California Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald and her lifetime of dedication to the people of California and the United States. I was deeply saddened to learn our colleague passed away so suddenly. We have not only lost a wonderful friend but an individual who during her lifetime made countless contributions toward the betterment of our Nation.

A native of Alabama—there is some dispute as to whether she was born in Gee's Bend or Birmingham—Juanita's ties to her home state remained strong throughout her life. In fact, just a few short years ago, she was extremely involved with her family reunion which was held in Monroeville, in Alabama's First District. She was always so very proud of her family and naturally, they are so very proud of her.

Juanita began her career as a teacher in Los Angeles. She was also the editor-writer for the Los Angeles Unified School District and worked as a manuscript editor for Images, a textbook designed to enhance the self-esteem of young women. She began her political career in 1990, when she was elected to the Cason City Council. Just 2 years later, she was elected to the California State Assembly.

In 1996, Juanita was elected to represent the 37th District of California in the United States House of Representatives. Throughout her seven terms, she was a champion of election reform and women's health issues. She made history in the 110th Congress when she was named chairwoman of the House Administration Committee becoming the first African American woman to chair a House committee.

We are privileged to have known and worked with such a passionate and loyal individual. Juanita will be greatly missed and always remembered. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated public servant.

Juanita Millender-McDonald will be deeply missed by her family—her husband, James McDonald Jr., her five children, and five grandchildren—as well as the countless friends she leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, we are here today because last week President Bush vetoed legislation supported by a majority of the members of the House and the Senate. The vetoed supplemental appropriations bill, H.R. 1591, would have provided funding for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, cared for the needs of our veterans and put forth commonsense benchmarks and timelines to hold Iraq's politicians accountable for achieving needed political results. President Bush rejected that modest requirement to the foreign policy disaster he has created in Iraq. Once again it would appear he has forgotten that the rubber stamp Congress he had grown accustomed to is no longer in power and the American people, along with the new Congress, expect cooperation, compromise and an exit strategy from Iraq, not more "stay the course" rhetoric that has cost our Nation so many lives.

Today's bill, H.R. 2206, unfortunately does not set a timetable for bringing U.S. troops home, but it does provide President Bush with an opportunity to demonstrate his commitment to holding Iraq's political leadership accountable while providing the Department of Defense with \$42.8 billion in immediate funding for our troops in Iraq. This legislation also provides Congress the ability to ensure that the President and the Pentagon are taking meaningful steps to achieve success in Iraq by "protecting" an additional \$52.8 billion in military spending. This spending would be released when the President reports to Congress in mid-July that his stated benchmarks and goals in Iraq are being met. This legislation is not the blank check the President wants. But, it is a responsible, measured approach for a White House that has proven itself incapable of honest, forthright leadership in managing this war.

H.R. 2206 is necessary legislation that puts the needs of U.S. troops and responsible accountability for a policy that now threatens

U.S. military preparedness and our national security. Congress has every right, and in fact every obligation, to hold President Bush and Iraq's political leadership accountable for their lack of results and complete lack of urgency while U.S. troops patrol in the midst of an Iraqi civil war.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 2206 and I urge my colleagues—especially my Republican colleagues—to take this appropriate and tempered step towards protecting our troops while demanding political accountability from President Bush and his Iraqi counterparts.

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA BERKOWITZ

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and pay tribute to an esteemed member of my community, Sylvia Berkowitz as she celebrates her 100th birthday on May 30th.

I know that her love and kindness have been an inspiration to her family and friends. Her dedication to her family—as a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and recently a great-great-grandmother—is to be revered.

Throughout the last century, Sylvia has not only dedicated her energies and remarkable abilities to her family but also to others. I applaud her work in volunteering for numerous charitable organizations including helping those struggling with Leukemia, Multiple Sclerosis and other incapacitating diseases.

On behalf of the people of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, it is my privilege to congratulate Sylvia Berkowitz on this momentous occasion. You are a true inspiration and a wonderful human being. I wish you continued success, good health, and happiness in the years ahead.

AMERICAN VETERANS DISABLED FOR LIFE COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 634, the American Veterans Disabled for Life Commemorative Coin Act. This bipartisan legislation commemorates those veterans who have sacrificed so much to secure our freedom by requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in their honor.

The funding generated from the sale of these coins will be used to help build a memorial to disabled veterans on the grounds surrounding the U.S. Capitol. This memorial, which will sit within full view of the Capitol, will serve to remind us of those young men and women who put their lives on the line each day in defense of this great Nation.

Several weeks ago, I had the opportunity to visit Walter Reed to meet some of the brave men and women that we seek to honor here

today. I will never forget the faces of those warriors who proved that they would stop at nothing to fulfill the mission that this Nation has laid before them.

Our military veterans have served honorably around the world, in many of the most hostile and dangerous conditions known to man. Whether it is in the fields of Europe, the jungles of Southeast Asia, or the deserts of the Middle East, the selfless actions of these men and women helps to preserve the liberty that we hold so dear.

These soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who voluntarily heeded the call to serve our Nation in combat, truly embody all that is great within our society. They have shown courage and valor, consistently performing with distinction on foreign battlefields. These honorable Americans have given us all that they have to offer. It is now time for us to show them how much we appreciate their great sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING KEELIN BROUGHAN ON THE 2006 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN MATH AND SCIENCE TEACHING

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Keelin Broughan on winning the 2006 Presidential Award of Excellence in Math and Science Teaching.

Ms. Broughan is a kindergarten teacher at Paul Revere Elementary School in Chicago. I often say that we need to start teaching math and science to our children as early as possible, and it doesn't get much earlier than kindergarten.

Paul Revere Elementary is a Chicago Public School with a very long tradition in the community. Thanks to excellent teachers like Keelin Broughan, students from a variety of backgrounds are able to have access to an outstanding education.

This week, Ms. Broughan will be presented with her award and have an opportunity to meet the President of the United States and her fellow award winners from across the country.

Since 1983, over 3,700 teachers have received Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The effort and ability of these educators will help ensure that our children are ably prepared for the coming years.

Madam Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Keelin Broughan on her outstanding work in the classroom, and I wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALIDA DIETRICH BEGINA, ED.D.

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a dear friend and out-

standing community member, Dr. Alida Dietrich Begina, who was taken from us all too soon in late April of this year after losing her battle with breast cancer. As a wife, mother, educator, administrator, colleague and friend, Alida gave so much of herself to others and has left an indelible mark on the lives of all of those she touched.

Alida's dedication to education—at every level—was unparalleled. She began her career as an English, Latin, and Spanish teacher in several school systems eventually working her way to administrative positions. She worked in both public school systems as well as alternative education systems, even spending 2 years as an Instructor in English as a Second Language at Indiana Central University in Nicosia, Cyprus. She would end her career as the Superintendent of Hamden Public Schools where she was respected and loved by students, faculty and community members alike. In the 12 years she served in this position, Alida worked diligently to provide Hamden's students with access to the best possible education on which to build their future success. She was a reflection of all that we hope our education leaders will be.

Through all of her efforts Alida became one of the most highly regarded administrators in the State. In addition to serving as the Superintendent for the Hamden Public School system, she served as an adjunct professor at both Sacred Heart University and Southern Connecticut State University, where she taught graduate courses for obtaining superintendents' certification as well as curriculum development and theories of learning for administrator certification. Alida was often looked to by professionals and public policy makers for input—the myriad of honors, awards, and commendations that she earned throughout her career are a testimony to her distinguished reputation as a leader in public education. Perhaps most telling was her selection as the only superintendent in Connecticut to design and write the revised version of the Connecticut Administrator Test that is used for certification of administrators. Indeed, I and my staff often called upon Alida's vast knowledge and experience when faced with challenging choices in public policy concerning education. The loss of her expertise and unique perspective on public education and its impact on our young people will certainly be missed by many.

One of her most invaluable contributions and lasting legacies is her work to establish the Hamden Education Foundation—a non-profit organization that, since its inception, has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars which has been used to fund innovative student programs and scholarships. In addition to several annual scholarships, funds are used for such programs as the purchase of library books and periodicals for all Hamden public schools as well as mini-grants aimed at encouraging teachers and other certified staff to implement exciting and often long-cherished ideas. The Foundation looks to the community to raise the funds it uses—creating a special bond between the community and its young people. I have no doubt that the Hamden Education Foundation and Alida's vision in which it was created will continue to enrich the lives and education of Hamden students for many years to come.

Dr. Alida Dietrich Begina will long be remembered for her many invaluable contributions to education, both locally and state-wide.

She was a mentor to so many—most notably her two loving daughters, Lauren and Courtney. I stand today to offer my sincerest condolences to her husband, Bill; her daughter, Lauren and her husband Ryan; her daughter Courtney and her husband Daniel; as well as her beloved grandson, Jackson—the inspiration for her two children's books published shortly before her passing. Mere words cannot express the sorrow we all feel at the loss of such an extraordinary woman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 14, 2007, I attended an event in my district announcing a major economic development project and was absent for 3 votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 342, "yea" on rollcall 343, and "yea" on rollcall 344.

HONORING SONIA GUTIERREZ

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, on May 18, 2007, the Latino and immigrant communities of the Greater Washington Region will gather to celebrate with Ms. Sonia Gutierrez her 35 years of selfless dedication to the larger community and to the Carlos Rosario International School.

Sonia Gutierrez was born in Santurce, Puerto Rico. She received a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration and a Masters Degree in Adult Education specializing in Supervision and Administration of Adult Education Programs.

Ms. Gutierrez, is the CEO & Founder of the Carlos Rosario International Career Center and Public Charter School, and has spent 35 years as a principal, counselor, advocate, and organizer to more than 60,000 adult immigrant students.

Ms. Gutierrez began her career in the District of Columbia Public Schools in May 1972 as a counselor in the Program for English Instruction to Latin Americans (PEILA). There she began her mission: to provide holistic education to adult immigrants with little formal education in their native countries, enabling them to succeed by addressing their social and academic needs.

In October 1972, Ms. Gutierrez became the Director of PEILA and transformed the small, under-funded English as a Second Language (ESL) program into a comprehensive adult education program. In 1974, the Office of Right to Read of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare designated it as one of the best literacy programs in the Nation. As PEILA outgrew its facility, Ms. Gutierrez began a 2-year effort to secure a school building for the program. In 1978 she was successful in relocating the program to the old Gordon Junior High School in Georgetown; PEILA then merged with the old Americanization School with an initial enrollment of 800.

Sonia Gutierrez has made a tremendous impact on the Washington, DC region and on the field of adult education. She has had a direct impact on the lives of over 60,000 people in the last 35 years. Many thousands more have benefited as the adult education model she developed has proliferated across the globe. The students served by the Carlos Rosario International School have been given the chance to achieve their dreams because of her belief in them and their potential, and her passionate leadership of the school.

Ms. Gutierrez has triumphed over great adversity in leading the school to be the thriving model it is today. Today, it is arguably the most recognized school in the District of Columbia Public School System. Under her leadership it was recognized as a national model for adult education by the United States Department of Education. She has helped other schools replicate the model across the Nation as well as in Korea and Germany. When many adult schools were closed by the District of Columbia in 1996, she pushed on, ignored suggestions to retire, and reestablished the Carlos Rosario International School.

Sonia Gutierrez is a civil rights activist, a leader and visionary. She is a fierce defender and advocate for urban school systems and the families who attend them. Sonia has been a model of leadership. Her commitment to fairness, excellence, and compassion has inspired many to make a difference in this world.

It is for this perseverance, passion, visionary leadership, and the immeasurable impact on the lives touched by her work that we recognize Ms. Sonia Gutierrez' 35 years of service to the community.

BREAST CANCER ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, as we return from Mother's Day weekend, I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for H.R.1157, the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act, and urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

This weekend we honored our mothers and grandmothers and the immense contributions they have made in our lives. As we celebrate these women, we should also take the opportunity to renew our focus and efforts on an issue that affects far too many women in the United States: breast cancer.

There are more than three million women currently living with breast cancer, and each year tens of thousands of women die from the disease. While we have made important progress in treatments and research, we still do not know what causes breast cancer or how to prevent it. And the alarming nature of these uncertainties is compounded by the fact breast cancer rates are on the rise. A woman in the United States has a 1 in 7 chance of developing invasive breast cancer in her lifetime—this risk was only 1 in 11 in 1975.

While it is generally believed the environment plays some role in the development of breast cancer, scientific evidence about the extent of its role is minimal. Studies have ex-

plored the effect of isolated environmental factors such as diet, pesticides and electromagnetic fields, but in most cases there is no conclusive evidence, and they cannot be translated into real ways in which women can better protect themselves.

The Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act will create a competitive, peer-reviewed research program at the National Institutes of Health to study the potential links between breast cancer and the environment. Less than 30 percent of breast cancers are explained by known risk factors, and there are many understudied factors suspected to play a role that could be valuable in understanding the causes of breast cancer. H.R. 1157 will start a collaborative, comprehensive and national strategy to study these issues.

I proudly stand in support of the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act. I hope you will join me in cosponsoring this important, bipartisan investment in breast cancer research.

CONGRATULATING BROWARD COUNTY ANNUAL SENIOR HALL OF FAME HONOREES

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, today in Tamarac, Florida, 11 outstanding Broward elders will be honored at the Annual Senior Hall of Fame Breakfast. These 11 seniors being honored have volunteered in their communities and have contributed countless hours to helping others. Their outstanding character and compassion have truly set them apart. Those being honored are Dr. Kamala Anadam, Lucille D'Orso, Ron English, Elizabeth "Betty" Mate, Evelyn Miller, Pearl Monchek, Commissioner Allegra Webb Murphy, Sister Germana Sala, Charles Singer, Eleanor Sobel, and Willie Mae Williams.

Dr. Kamala Anadam of Weston, a former professor of Child Development in India, has been participating in the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Project since 1998. She personally coordinated the Project in her congregation, overseeing 22 volunteers and visiting frail homebound elderly in their homes. Dr. Anadam is a Member of the Fort Lauderdale Branch of America Association of University Women, a member of the Broward County Chapter of the United Nations of U.S.A., and a Member of the Advisory Committee of Senior Volunteer Services, Inc.

Lucille D'Orso of Lauderdale Lakes, a retired hairdresser, has been volunteering for the Foster Grandparents Program for over 32 years and has spent a majority of her time at several Broward County elementary schools, including Pinewood Elementary in North Lauderdale for 10 years, Northside Elementary in Fort Lauderdale for 15 years, Oriole Elementary in Lauderdale Lakes, and Larkdale Elementary in Fort Lauderdale.

Ron English of Fort Lauderdale has a passion for caring for the marginalized and less fortunate members of the community, leading to the creation of ground-breaking institutions such as AmFar (American Foundation for AIDS Research), the Sunshine Cathedral Foundation, and SunServe, the world's first

senior center designed to meet the needs of gay and lesbian frail seniors and their caregivers.

Elizabeth "Betty" Mate of Fort Lauderdale has been associated with the Alzheimer's Family Center since 1997 and has served on the agency's Board of Directors. In 2007, she became Chairman of the Alzheimer's Family Center's Black Tie Gala Committee, and she recently completed a training program to volunteer for Project Lifesaver.

Evelyn Miller of Tamarac is Broward President of the National Alliance for Mental Illness. She also serves on the Board of the Florida Alliance for Mental Illness, and through her legislative advocacy and facilitation of model programs, has established the local Mental Health Court, the Court Project, the Florida Assertive Community Treatment Teams, the Crisis Intervention team Model within local law enforcement, and the Peer-to-Peer and Family-to-Family Programs.

Pearl Monchek of Hollywood is a lifetime member of the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. She also discovered the Southeast Focal Point Senior Center more than 10 years ago and often fills in for the Site Manager for Broward Meals on Wheels. During the aftermath of Hurricane Wilma, Pearl came to the aid of residents of the apartment complex adjacent to the Senior Center, purchasing and delivering food and supplies to needy individuals.

Commissioner Allegra Webb Murphy of Oakland Park has served on the City of Oakland Park's Beautification Advisory Board, Charter Review Board, and Oakland Park Main Street Inc., in the offices of Vice President and Executive Board Secretary, and has contributed time as President of the Harris Chapel United Methodist Women's Group. Allegra actively participates with the Lakeside Homeowners Association, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, and the Oakland Park Kiwanis Club, and she holds the distinction of being the first African American Mayor of the City of Oakland Park.

Sister Germana Sala of Davie spent 15 years teaching mentally disabled children in North Miami and since then, has spent a majority of her time at Hope Outreach, providing Social Services to the low-income, poor, and multicultural residents in and around the Davie area. Germana also visits the homebound, disabled, and frail elderly at home, nursing facilities, and hospitals.

Charles Singer of Pompano Beach helped pursue the creation of Broward Homebound Program, Inc., an affordable in-home program to prevent the need for premature institutionalization. Charles has also served as President of the Central Bureau for Jewish Aged Association, Founder of the National Association of Jewish Homes for the Aged, Treasurer of the Men's Golf Association of Palm Aire and the B'nai B'rith Housing in Deerfield, and Vice President of the Auxiliary of the Memory Disorder Center.

Eleanor Sobel of Hollywood was elected to the Broward School Board in 2006 and is a former Florida State Representative. Eleanor served as Chair for Women in Power in the 1980s and as President of the Hollywood Chapter for the National Council for Jewish Women, and was the City Commissioner in Hollywood for 6 years in the 1990s. As a State Representative, Eleanor brought the concerns

of citizens in Hollywood and Pembroke Pines before the state legislature and was influential in enacting reforms on many issues of importance.

Willie Mae Williams of Lauderdale Lakes served as the Northwest Federated Woman's Club of Broward County for more than 25 years. As Second Vice President, Willie Mae diligently chairs the Food and Social Committee, and has raised funds for the organization by coordinating and implementing a weekly fish fry.

Madam Speaker, I would like to again congratulate these 11 outstanding Broward County citizens who are being honored at the Annual Senior Hall of Fame, and thank them for their years of service to their fellow Floridians.

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, the following graduating high school students from the First Congressional District of New Mexico have been awarded the Congressional Certificate of Merit. These students have excelled during their academic careers and proven themselves to be exceptional students and leaders with their scholastic achievements, community service, and participation in school and civic activities. It is my pleasure to be able to recognize these outstanding students for their accomplishments. Their parents, their teachers, their classmates, the people of New Mexico and I are proud of them.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD WINNERS 2007

Daniel Lerma, Robert F. Kennedy Charter High School; Jennifer Roberts, Mountainair High School; Jennifer Johnston, Del Norte High School; James H. Caughren, Sandia Preparatory School; Arthur Chacon, Manzano High School; Siobhan Degnan, Southwest Secondary Learning Center; Abigail Martinez, South Valley Academy; Molly Nelson, Albuquerque Academy; Ashley Marie Maturino, Evangel Christian Academy; Ruby Trujillo, Rio Grande High School; Nicholas A. Maestas, Highland High School; David Aaron Parks, Cibola High School; Kelsey Byrne, Moriarty High School; Mathew Garcia, West Mesa High School; Eric Layer, Sandia High School; and Austin Baker, Temple Baptist Academy.

Angelica Aguilar, Los Puentes Charter School; Amanda Fernandez May, St. Pius X High School; Ashley Hope Darnell, Bernalillo High School; Sara Beth Dunham, Victory Christian School; Geri Lucia Lia, Menaul School; Corina Franco, New Futures School; Kelly Walker, Bosque School; Kelly D. Clingenpeel, Sierra Alternative High School; Audrey Wofford, Hope Christian School; Desiree J. Sandoval, Cesar Chavez Community School; Katie Gilliam, La Cueva High School; James C. Bohnhoff, El Dorado High School; Elizabeth McConaghy, Los Lunas High School; Charles Andres Padilla, East Mountain High School; Stacy Daniels, Valley High School; and Lindsay Riblett, Moriarty High School.

STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE TOM DAVIS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John H. La Raia for over 37 years of dedicated military and Federal service.

Following his graduation from the University of Rochester in 1968, John joined the Air Force's Strategic Air Command in Southeast Asia. During his 5 years at this post, John served courageously and valiantly, flying in 155 missions. After completing his active duty, John continued to serve in the Air Force Reserves for an additional 21 years as a logistics plans officer.

Compelled to further serve his government and his Nation, John then began a career in the federal service at the Bureau of Naval Personnel. After his initial training period, he quickly rose through the ranks of the Bureau, serving in a variety of assignments dealing with financial management, systems analysis and both civilian and military personnel.

In 1999, he joined the Senior Executive Service as an assistant for administration to the Under Secretary of the Navy. Through this role John managed duties concerning the Navy's budget, human resources, manpower, facilities and services, IT services and various other functions for the secretary.

During his distinguished career he was awarded the Department of the Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Medal three times. Additionally, he received the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Civilian Service. Finally, last year he was recognized by President Bush and awarded the Presidential Rank of Meritorious Service.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Mr. John H. La Raia for his distinguished career and his service to our Nation. He exemplifies everything our great Nation could hope for in a public servant. I call upon my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. La Raia and in wishing him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL JEREMY R. GREENE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness and deep respect that I wish to commend Army Corporal Jeremy R. Greene for his bravery and his willingness to fight for his country. Corporal Greene was assigned to A Company 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, New York. In an unfortunate accident, Corporal Greene lost his life on Saturday, April 28, 2007, at Forward Operating Base Tillman in Afghanistan. His sacrifice for his country will forever be remembered by a community that has been struck hard by the devastating loss of one of its own.

A native of Springfield, Ohio, Jeremy graduated in 2001 from Shawnee High School in

Springfield, Ohio. Jeremy is remembered as being the adventurous type, always enjoying activities like rock climbing and rappelling. Based on his desire to participate in exciting activities, even as a child, it came as no surprise that he would eventually choose to join the military. In 2004, Jeremy enlisted in the United States Army and began his next adventure.

Corporal Greene felt tremendous pride for his country, and it will never be forgotten that he was willing to endanger his own life to protect the lives of his fellow citizens. His courage and heroism will always be remembered, and his sacrifice will forever live in the hearts and minds of those for whom he battled. Corporal Greene enlisted in the United States Army being fully aware that danger could arise in any situation. He accepted this so the freedoms and values he treasured could be enjoyed by men, women, and children around the world.

For his efforts, Corporal Greene was awarded several military medals and honors, including: the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, to name a few. In addition, to further exemplify his dedication and patriotism, Corporal Greene was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

Although he loved his unit and his country, Jeremy treasured his family above all else. He is survived by his father, Richard Greene, of Springfield, Ohio, his mother, Cindy Greene (Mike White), of Oxford, Indiana, and two brothers, Mickey and Christopher Webster, as well as his loving nieces, Zoe, Sierra, and Jordan, whom Jeremy adored. Jeremy also leaves to cherish his memory many other friends and family members whose lives he has touched.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army Corporal Jeremy R. Greene. He will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country; thus, let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

THE RESERVISTS AND GUARDSMEN TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2007

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Reservists and Guardsmen Tax Relief Act of 2007. As Reservists and Guardsmen are activated, this can cause financial strains on many of them, and my legislation is meant to help provide some financial relief during the time in which they are called to active duty.

My bill would extend the penalty-free withdrawals from retirement accounts for Reservists and Guardsmen who are called to active duty for more than 179 days. This benefit is set to expire on December 31, 2007. My bill extends this benefit through December 31, 2008.

Under this tax benefit, Guardsmen and Reservists called to active duty can receive pay-

ments from their individual retirement accounts, 401(k) plans and 403(b) tax-sheltered annuities, without having to pay the 10 percent early-distribution surtax. Some Reservists and Guardsmen have already taken advantage of this benefit. While premature withdrawals from retirement accounts should be very carefully considered by anyone who has a retirement account, this proposal may assist in dealing with economic difficulties that may occur when a self-employed reservist, or any Reservist or Guardsman, is called to active duty service. This would be one way to allow them increased access to their money at a time when they are defending our liberties.

Some Reservists and Guardsmen, including small business owners and employees of small businesses, experience loss of income when they are called to active duty. The drop in income is real for many Reservists and Guardsmen. Removal of the early withdrawal penalty would be one way to help alleviate some of the income loss that a Reservist or Guardsman's family might suffer as a result of activation.

Our Reservists and Guardsmen should have access to their own money in order to help them make ends meet while activated. This is a small step to help out those who are serving in defense of our Nation. As a former active duty and reserve Army officer, I am committed to doing what I can to make active duty service easier for all of our servicemembers, both active and reserve.

IN SUPPORT OF THE BUX-MONT KATRINA RELIEF PROJECT

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and personal gratitude that I recognize the remarkable work of the Bux-Mont Katrina Relief Project (BMKP), whose organizers took bold initiative to provide much needed disaster relief services to Hancock County, Mississippi in the aftermath of Katrina Hurricane.

In partnership with the Salvation Army, the Bux-Mont Katrina Relief Project developed a community-to-community disaster response model. By creating a partnership between Bucks and Montgomery Counties in Pennsylvania and Hancock County in Mississippi, a \$1.25 million child care center was created. Furthermore, homes were rebuilt, schools were repaired and community projects were aided. In addition, the University of Pennsylvania School of Society Policy and Practice is partnering with the BMKP to help fix the Hancock County human services system. Funding for these projects came solely from private and corporate donations and in-kind services.

Through outstanding effort and vision, this project brought hope to the Gulf Coast community by establishing a proactive disaster relief program. Madam Speaker, the experience gained by BMKP and its partner organizations has inspired them to present their program as a national disaster relief model designed to bring together the military, governmental agencies, regional groups and national organizations.

Madam Speaker, as you know, the victims of Hurricane Katrina have been slow to re-

ceive the necessary and promised support from our government. The Bux-Mont Katrina Relief Project has successfully provided private support to one community. Their disaster relief model, if promoted nationally, will expand on that success and greatly improve our Nation's ability to respond to man-made and natural disasters.

COPS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today in support of the COPS Improvement Act.

Created by President Clinton, COPS grants have successfully put 117,000 police officers in our neighborhoods. The formula is simple—more cops means safer streets and more secure neighborhoods.

As a result of this tough-on-crime policy, our nation experienced a significant drop in crime rates throughout the 1990s. Unfortunately, last year the Republican-led Congress completely eliminated funding for this highly successful initiative.

It is no coincidence that when federal funds for COPS grants dried up, violent crime rates escalated. For example, last year the City of Philadelphia experienced a nine-year high in homicides, claiming 406 lives. This shamefully high number of homicides included my constituent, Police Officer Gary Skerski, who was shot while responding to a robbery.

Last week was the one-year anniversary of Officer Skerski's death, and we must not forget the sacrifices that he and the other officers have made to protect their communities.

That is why I am pleased that the Democratic Majority is taking steps to restore funding for COPS grants. As a result of this bill, we will put 50,000 new officers on our nation's streets, provide local law enforcement with additional tools and resources to combat crime, and better ensure that criminals are put behind bars.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation has been endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Police Organizations, and the National Sheriffs' Association. These men and women serve our constituents every day, and they rely on us to support them with necessary equipment and resources for essential personnel.

I thank my colleagues for protecting our citizens by voting "yes" on this important bill.

C.O.P.S IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H.R. 1700, The C.O.P.S Improvement Act. This legislation helps to put 50,000 more police officers on America's streets. This bill will add hundreds of new

cops to fight crime and terrorism in the 9th Congressional District and the City of Houston.

The C.O.P.S. hiring program was created in 1994 to put more police officers on America's streets, and has been one of the most successful law enforcement programs in our Nation's history. Nationally, C.O.P.S. has provided \$9 billion to hire 117,000 police officers. According to a GAO study, between 1998 and 2000, C.O.P.S. grants were a significant factor in reducing crimes by about 200,000 to 225,000 crimes—one third of which were violent. In 1998, C.O.P.S. grants were greatly responsible for an 8 percent decrease in crimes—and a 13 percent drop in violent crimes. The C.O.P.S. Improvement Act will breathe new life into the C.O.P.S. program nationwide.

Since 1994, 907 additional police officers and/or sheriff deputies have been hired in the 9th District of Texas, and over \$64 million in C.O.P.S. grants have been awarded to law enforcement agencies in the 9th District of Texas. Passage of the C.O.P.S. Improvement Act of 2007 would likely add an additional \$19 million into Texas' 9th District. This bill will also help to make our schools and children safer by adding 8 more school resource officers to the beat. In the last 13 years over \$9 million in C.O.P.S. grants have been awarded to law enforcement agencies to purchase technology that enables agencies to put more officers on the beat in the 9th District.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that the 5.7 percent drop in crime in the City of Houston is greatly due to the dedication of our city's hard-working men and women in uniform. Through their increased efforts Houstonians were safer from crime in 2006 than years before. I support the C.O.P.S. Improvement Act, and am proud to increase the number of police officers and make our Nation a safer and better place to live.

IN MEMORIAL OF DONALD N. BUIE

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Donald N. Buie of Sanford, North Carolina, who died Monday, May 7, 2007. In his passing I lost a good friend, and North Carolina lost one of its most outstanding citizens and a man who was instrumental in his church, community, county, and State.

One of the area's most beloved men, my friend Don, passed away peacefully with his family by his side following a brief battle with Creutzfeldt Jakob disease, a rare degenerative neurological disorder. He was only 63, Don loved hunting, raising beagles, barbecuing, and shagging the night away.

Don was a native of Western Harnett County and graduated from Benhaven High School in 1961. In 1965 Don received his undergraduate degree from East Carolina University in Physical Education and completed his master's degree from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1971. Don taught school in both Harnett and Lee County for 6 years. During this time, he coached basketball, baseball, and football. In 1973, he began working at Central Carolina

Community College. During his tenure at CCCC, Don was very active in expanding its curriculum, finding new talent and bringing culture in Lee, Harnett, and Chatham Counties. Don retired from CCCC in 2002 as the Dean of Continuing Education.

Don served Lee County in many capacities, and when he joined an organization he typically became the leader. Don was the chairman of the Lee County Democratic party where he helped lead us to victory in past elections. He was also past president and member of the Sanford Rotary Club, past president and member of the Lee County Wildlife Club, the past president of the Lee County Farm Bureau, and a host of others. Don is survived by his lovely wife of 38 years, Jeanne Johnson Buie, and their three children Melanie Hawes, Dixie Simpson, and David Buie.

Madam Speaker, Donald Buie used every minute of his long and productive life to make the world a better place. He was a respected and successful coach, a dedicated public servant, and a great North Carolinian. It is fitting that we honor him and his family today.

A TRIBUTE TO MARIO M. VITTONI
COAST GUARD ENLISTED PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker it is with tremendous pride that I rise today to pay tribute to Petty Officer Mario M. Vittone of the United States Coast Guard. The Coast Guard selected him as the Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year for 2006. Officer Vittone demonstrated outstanding resourcefulness, leadership, and competence while serving at Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City, North Carolina from January 1, 2006 to December 2006.

While performing the demanding duties of a Night Shift Supervisor for the Aviation Survival Technician Shop as the Senior Duty Rescue Swimmer, he applied his experience in rescue swimmer procedures, aviation maintenance techniques, and team management toward creating a standard operating procedures handbook. A brilliant mentor, he also designed a web-based service-wide exam study guide for all members of the unit and conducted daily training sessions to aid them in exam preparation. His unmatched efforts directly improved the readiness posture of the entire station and helped junior Coast Guard personnel score higher on exams.

Petty Officer Vittone used his expertise to author more than eight separate articles in areas ranging from survival to leadership. An accomplished writer, many of his articles have been published and are used as a reference by the Leadership Development Center at the Coast Guard Academy. Most recently, one of his articles was submitted for publication in the Winter 2006 issue of On-Scene Magazine.

With his stellar reputation for instilling commitment to operational excellence, he has delivered inspirational speeches to graduating companies as well as visitors at Training Center Cape May. Repeatedly, his motivating words capture the audience's attention and draw compliments from attendees.

His selfless contributions go beyond the Coast Guard and are evident in the community. As a testament to his unquestionable character, he endured a rigorous screening process to be hand-selected as an advocate for abused and neglected children in the Virginia Court System.

Petty Officer Mario M. Vittone's previous awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Coast Guard Achievement Medal (3), Commandant's Letter of Commendation, Coast Guard Basic Training Honor Graduate, Coast Guard Rifle Expert Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal, Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal (2). Through his exceptional achievement and performance, he has proven himself as a worthy and distinguished recipient of this award. His dedication, judgment, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and uphold the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

THANKING THE HONORABLE
JAMES M. EAGEN III FOR HIS
SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement, I rise to thank James Eagen III, for 25 years of distinguished service to the House of Representatives.

Jay began his House career in 1982 as a Legislative Assistant and then Administrative Assistant to Representative Steve Gunderson of Wisconsin. From 1985 to 1991, he served as the Chief of Staff to Representative Bill Goodling of Pennsylvania. Following his Member office service, Jay assumed the role of Staff Director on the Committee on Education and Workforce—currently the Committee on Education and Labor. Jay served the Committee and Chairman Goodling for six years before being nominated and elected to the office of Chief Administrative Officer of the House. He was sworn in to this prestigious position on July 31, 1997.

Jay has served as Chief Administrative Officer in the last six Congresses, and under his leadership, the Office of the CAO dutifully fulfilled its mission to provide first-rate administrative, technical, and support services. During his tenure, the CAO achieved customer satisfaction ratings in the 90th percentile and set new benchmark standards for customer service by Government agencies. Thanks in large part to Jay, the CAO truly is a world-class organization.

Furthermore, the House achieved nine consecutive clean annual financial statement audits, and successfully responded to the anthrax contamination of House office buildings in 2001. Jay led efforts to strengthen the House's business continuity and disaster recovery readiness following the September 11 attacks, and to modernize the committee hearing rooms to upgrade broadcasting capabilities, which enhanced the House's ability to share the legislative process with a greater number of citizens across the country.

Jay Eagen has served the U.S. House of Representatives, and our Nation, with honor and distinction. And on behalf of our entire

community, I extend a heartfelt thank you to Jay and wish him many wonderful years as he moves on to the next phase of his life with his wife, Cathy, and son, Keiran.

ON TALMADGE E. KING, JR., M.D.
OF UCSF RECEIVING THE ED-
WARD LIVINGSTON TRUDEAU
MEDAL

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and offer my personal congratulations to Talmadge E. King, Jr., MD. The American Thoracic Society has awarded Dr. King the Edward Livingston Trudeau Medal to recognize Dr. King's lifelong contribution to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of lung disease. Dr. King, throughout his career, has made significant contributions to pulmonary medicine, in-patient care, research, specialty organization, and academic medicine.

As a scientist Dr. King has contributed greatly to the fundamental understanding of interstitial lung diseases. His contributions have served to bridge the gap between basic investigations and clinical science and have guided both research and clinical care. He has been instrumental in developing and leading rigorous clinical research in interstitial lung diseases. The studies, many of which involved multiple centers and were led by Dr. King, have served to define specific diagnostic criteria and to determine the role of various tests in establishing a diagnosis. Dr. King has played a major role in creating the international classification system now used to make sense of the different interstitial lung diseases and also to define histological-radio-graphic correlations that now enable many diagnoses to be established without biopsy. Currently, Dr. King is involved in a reassessment of the histopathologic basis of classification that will permit even further refinements of therapeutic trials.

Dr. King has made great strides in clinical and academic medicine. He has been a member of the American Board of Internal Medicine, Subspecialty Board on Pulmonary Disease and is currently on the board of directors of the American Board of Internal Medicine, as well as serving as the ABIM representative to the American Board of Medical Specialties. He either has served or is currently serving on several NIH-wide advisory and/or governing groups, including the board of governors of the Clinical Center at NIH, the board of external advisors, and the advisory board for clinical research. Dr. King has received numerous awards and was recently named to the Institute of Medicine.

In all of these roles, Dr. King has not only excelled as a clinician and academic, but has taken a leading role in calling attention to the inequality of health care and lack of diversity in its own ranks. We expect Dr. King will have a significant and far-reaching impact. He has written about disparities in health care as, for example, with his editorial in the American Journal of Medicine, "Inequality in health care: Unjust, inhumane, and unattended!" More recently, Dr. King led a group of faculty at San Francisco General Hospital in writing a text-

book devoted to diseases of vulnerable and underserved populations.

Dr. King continues to serve as a mentor to young enthusiastic investigators, obtaining funding and building a clinical base of operations and he continues to publish prodigiously.

Dr. King is recognized in the scientific community for his teaching and lecturing skills. He is prized as a lecturer all over the world. He is equally impressive when teaching students one-on-one as when lecturing to a packed crowd in the largest auditorium at an international meeting. During his career, he has trained many pulmonologists, a number of whom now have assumed leadership roles in academic pulmonary medicine and in the field of interstitial lung disease.

As a clinician, Dr. King is truly exceptional. He has incredible experience and clinical judgment honed by years of caring for patients with interstitial lung disease. In his interactions with patients, he demonstrates intelligence, skill and respect and, in so doing, inspires countless students to aspire to the role of clinician. His calm demeanor and straight-forward approach fosters near immediate rapport. He maintains the highest standards of excellence in patient care and expects that from all his colleagues and trainees. His professional competence has been recognized at all levels. He is on multiple lists of the finest doctors, such as the Top Doctors and Best Doctors in America. Above all, he is sought after for his opinions by pulmonary specialists all over the world. Dr. King is the epitome of the clinician's clinician.

It is truly my pleasure to join the American Thoracic Society in recognizing my constituent, Talmadge E. King, Jr., MD for his receipt of the prestigious Trudeau Award.

TRIBUTE TO JIM HORNAK

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I take this time to remember one of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished citizens, Jim Hornak of Hammond, Indiana. On Monday, May 14, 2007, Jim passed away at the age of 56 as the result of an automobile accident. Known for his commitment to his union and his community, Jim will surely be missed by his family, friends, and the people with whom he worked.

Always a champion of developing the minds of young people in the community, Jim served as School Board President for the School City of Hammond. As a member of the board, Jim was fully committed to establishing and continuing educational programs that would afford the children of Hammond with the best opportunity for a productive future. Jim was focused on providing students the tools necessary to be successful in their academic careers. Furthermore, Jim was a firm believer that in order for students to achieve success and reach their full potential, they need the best teachers to serve as their guides. For this reason, Jim was a strong advocate for these teachers when it came to their professional development, and he constantly sought opportunities that would help make them better and more

efficient in their position to help shape their students' futures.

Not only was Jim focused on improving his community's school system, he also played a major role in the betterment of his union, Carpenters Local 1406. Though he retired in 2006, Jim was a true leader among the carpenters of Northwest Indiana. For 20 years, Jim served as a business agent for the union. During that time, he also served as a board member for regional organizations and the Northwest Indiana Joint Carpenters Apprentice Program, as well as President of the Northwest Indiana District Council of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

From his involvement in improving the school system in Hammond to his unwavering commitment to his fellow carpenters, Jim always has been a pillar of the Northwest Indiana community. Evidence of his devotion to his community was further demonstrated in his service as board chairman for the Millennium Project and his participation in several organizations, including: the Pirates, Lake Area United Way, Calumet Project for Industrial Jobs, Hammond Parks Foundation, and the Hammond Education Foundation.

Jim's commitment to the community and his colleagues is matched only by his devotion to his family. Jim leaves to cherish his memory his wife, State Senator Linda Lawson; parents, Paul and Theresa Hornak; sister, Paula (David) Barancyk; and daughters, Heather Hornak, Jennifer (Jeff) Bacino, and Laura Wozniak. Jim's adoring grandchildren, Jake Hornak, Maya Strong, and Genavive Bacino, also will treasure the memories of their grandpa, as will many other family members, colleagues, and friends whose lives he has touched.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Mr. James Hornak for his outstanding devotion to his community. His dedication to his family, friends, colleagues, and to all students in Hammond, Indiana, is worthy of the highest admiration. Jim's selflessness, his commitment to improving educational opportunities for children and improving the workplace for his fellow union members, as well as his devotion to his family are an inspiration to us all, and he will sorely be missed.

HONORING PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS' YOUTH
ART MONTH

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the efforts of Prince William County Public Schools during the 2007 Youth Art Month.

Youth Art Month is an annual effort to recognize and promote art education in schools across the country. Specifically, this program seeks to emphasize the importance and benefits of incorporating art into youth education. Since 1984, the Council for Art Education has acted as a primary sponsor of Youth Art Month alongside fellow organizations, such as the National Art Education Association, to consistently make this effort a success.

Prince William County has a strong tradition of promoting art education and has been celebrating Youth Art Month for 29 years. The Virginia Art Education Association, working in concert with Prince Williams County Public Schools, selected "Start with Art, Learn for Life" as the 2007 theme and launched this year's celebration on March 10, 2007, by exhibiting student artwork on the Manassas Mall. This year's Youth Art Month saw tremendous participation from county elementary, middle, and high schools and highlighted the works of many talented student artists.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who contributed to making this year's Youth Art Month a success. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable young artists and congratulate them on a job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House of Representatives last week due to the birth of my son, I would like to state how I would have voted on the following pieces of legislation if I had been able to be present:

H.R. 1873, to reauthorize the programs and activities of the Small Business Administration relating to procurement, and for other purposes, rollcall No. 319, "yea"; rollcall No. 320, "yea"; rollcall No. 321, "yea"; rollcall No. 322, "yea"; rollcall No. 323, "yea";

H.R. 1684 To authorize appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes, rollcall No. 314, "nay"; rollcall No. 315, "nay"; rollcall No. 316, "nay"; rollcall No. 317, "yea"; rollcall No. 318, "yea."

Ordering the Previous Question for H.R. 2082, Intelligence Authorization Act, rollcall No. 324, "nay."

Providing for the consideration of H.R. 2082, Intelligence Authorization Act, rollcall No. 325, "nay."

Providing for the consideration of H.R. 2237, H.R. 2206, and H.R. 2207, on ordering the previous question, rollcall No. 326, "nay."

Providing for the consideration of H.R. 2237, H.R. 2206, and H.R. 2207, on agreeing to the resolution rollcall No. 327, "nay"; on holding a secret session rollcall No. 328, "yea."

H.R. 2237, to provide for the redeployment of United States Armed Forces and defense contractors from Iraq, motion to recommit, rollcall No. 329, "yea"; on passage, rollcall No. 330, "nay"; on holding a secret session rollcall No. 331, "yea."

H.R. 2206, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, rollcall No. 332, "yea"; rollcall No. 333, "nay"; on motion to table the motion to hold a secret session, rollcall No. 334, "nay."

H.R. 2207, making supplemental appropriations for agricultural and other emergency assistance for the fiscal year ending September

30, 2007, on motion to recommit with instructions, rollcall No. 335, "nay"; on passage rollcall No. 336, "yea."

H.R. 2082, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, rollcall No. 337, "yea"; rollcall No. 338, "yea"; rollcall No. 339, "nay"; motion to recommit, rollcall No. 340, "yea"; final passage, rollcall No. 341, "nay."

ENERGY SAVINGS AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1427

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "Energy Saving Mortgages Amendment" to H.R. 1427. This amendment calls on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac work with lenders to quantify a household's monthly savings for purchasing an energy-efficient home or from living in a neighborhood providing transit and other transportation alternatives and shifts those savings into the "shelter" category of expenses. The amendment forces lenders to recognize the added purchasing power homebuyers generate by saving on energy and transportation costs. This allows the homebuyer, based on their enhanced buying power, either to qualify for a mortgage or to qualify for a larger mortgage.

By requiring lenders to quantify these savings, the amendment helps lower-income or first-time homebuyers qualify for mortgages to purchase homes located in transit-friendly locations or for homes that incorporate greater energy efficient building technologies. It also increases the lending ceiling for homebuyers purchasing a home in a neighborhood that allows for transportation savings from access to transit or other forms of transportation and for home buyers purchasing an energy efficient home.

THE COPS IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of The C.O.P.S. Improvements Act of 2007, H.R. 1700. I am a proud cosponsor of this legislation that would allow The Community Oriented Policing Services (C.O.P.S.) program to hire an additional 50,000 police officers to walk the beat in our local communities.

The creation of the C.O.P.S. program was a breakthrough in law enforcement. By funding additional officers, critical technologies, and valuable training, C.O.P.S. has been a catalyst

for the revolutionary shift to community policing. However, limits on hiring new officers has hindered the ability of the C.O.P.S. program to address the rise in violent crime.

Between 1995 and 2005, the C.O.P.S. program helped put 117,000 additional officers on the beat across every state and in most communities in our Nation. Unfortunately, in 2006 the then Republican-led Congress decided to eliminate the ability of this program to help hire additional law enforcement officers. This was a tragic mistake.

According to the General Accountability Office "C.O.P.S. funded increases in sworn officers per capita were associated with the declines in rates of total index crimes, violent crimes, and property crimes." The same GAO study showed that between the years of 1998 and 2000, C.O.P.S. hiring grants were responsible for reducing crime by about 200,000 to 225,000 incidents—one third of which were violent.

It is appropriate that in the wake of the tragic events at Virginia Tech, we are reauthorizing the C.O.P.S. program and restoring the program's ability to help local law enforcement agencies hire additional police officers. Earlier this week, I met with state and local law enforcement officials, school safety officers, and gun control advocacy organizations to learn what more the Federal Government should be doing to prevent gun crime. All the participants understood the importance of the C.O.P.S. program and the positive effect that community oriented policing has had on crime rates.

Across the state of New Jersey, approximately 4,790 officers were hired by local police departments using C.O.P.S. funds. This meant an additional 628 police officers and/or sheriff deputies walking the beat in the local communities of my Congressional District. Further, 33 school resource officers were hired to ensure that our children's schools are safe.

A Congressional Report, indicates that when The C.O.P.S. Improvements Act of 2007 becomes law there will be 268 more police officers on the beat, approximately \$13 million more for law enforcement grants, 14 additional school resource officers, and an additional \$3.6 million in technology grants for law enforcement officers in the 12th Congressional District.

This legislation has been endorsed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Sheriff's Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Police Organizations, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National League of Cities.

The C.O.P.S. program and community policing have put us on the right track. The police chiefs and sheriffs in my district consistently tell me that we could have never achieved this much without the additional officers and technology funded under the COPS program.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to under fund this program anymore. The COPS program has been vital to our local communities. Our police departments can do only so much with the resources they are given. At a time when we are asking our law enforcement officers to do more to reduce crime and protect our hometowns from potential terrorist related threats we should do everything we can to increase the funding of the COPS program. H.R. 1700 is an essential first step.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT (BOB)
UBBELOHDE AND MRS. SUSAN
UBBELOHDE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two of my constituents who together have dedicated nearly 40 years of service to one of the great educational institutions in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (U.P.): Finlandia University. This week, Finlandia University President Dr. Robert (Bob) Ubbelohde and Mrs. Susan Ubbelohde, the manager of "North Wind Bookstore" at Finlandia University, will both retire.

Dr. and Mrs. Ubbelohde first came to the U.P. in 1988 when Dr. Ubbelohde was named Dean of Faculty at Suomi College (later to become Finlandia University) in Hancock, Michigan. In 1991, Dr. Ubbelohde was named the 15th president of Suomi College.

When they came to the U.P., the Ubbelohdes did not expect to remain at Finlandia University for 20 years. In fact, as a self-described "city person," Dr. Ubbelohde has been known to say that he expected to stay in the U.P. only three to five years. However, the Ubbelohdes fell in love with Hancock, Michigan, with the local area, which is commonly referred to as the Copper Country, and with Finlandia University itself.

Dr. Ubbelohde's contributions to Finlandia University cannot be overstated. In fact, as much if not more than any other single person, he can be credited with saving and revitalizing the school. When Dr. Ubbelohde came to what was then Suomi College, he inherited an institution that, while enjoying a rich history, faced an uncertain future. Enrollment was de-

clining by 8 percent a year. By Dr. Ubbelohde's own admission, the administration of the school at the time even contemplated whether to close the school altogether. Thankfully, under Dr. Ubbelohde's guidance, the decision was made to keep the school open and to move the institution forward.

Under Dr. Ubbelohde's leadership, new programs were adopted at Suomi College and the school was largely re-vamped. In 1996, after being in existence for 100 years, the school was transformed from a two-year college offering, to a baccalaureate degree-granting university and was re-named Finlandia University. In 1998, athletics were re-introduced to the school, further strengthening the school's reputation. Over the past 10 years, thanks to Dr. Ubbelohde's vision, the school has enjoyed a 65 percent increase in student enrollment, major upgrades to campus technology and capital improvements.

Although Finlandia University has thrived under Dr. Ubbelohde's leadership, this humble man is perhaps best known for his passion for seeing students grow, learn and succeed. When asked what his greatest accomplishment is, he tellingly replies, "I don't even think that way. What I think about are students crossing the stage at Commencement to receive their diplomas. I can't claim to know the life story of each student, but I've learned enough about our students to know when a graduate has overcome or accomplished something extraordinary to earn that degree."

Just as Dr. Ubbelohde has done great things as the President of Finlandia University, Mrs. Ubbelohde has also contributed significantly to the university and to the surrounding community. While Dr. Ubbelohde served as the University President, Mrs. Ubbelohde has earned a well deserved reputation as the "ideal first lady" for the university. Well re-

garded for her warmth, kindness, grace and hospitality, Mrs. Ubbelohde has made friends throughout the community and acted as an ambassador for the school.

Mrs. Ubbelohde managed North Wind Books, the university bookstore that was founded under Dr. Ubbelohde's administration. North Wind Books not only supplies Finlandia University students their books, but is in many ways a cultural center for Finlandia University, offering Finnish rugs, tablecloths, Finnish books and other items that celebrate the Finnish traditions that the university honors. Under Mrs. Ubbelohde's management, North Wind Books has grown. Today, the thriving store continues to serve as a resource for students, teachers, Finlandia University alumni and visitors. Just as Dr. Ubbelohde has left his mark on Finlandia University in many ways, Mrs. Ubbelohde leaves a legacy in North Wind Books, which will be enjoyed by many future generations of Finlandia University Lions.

Madam Speaker, Finlandia University is in many ways a special place. It is a place that cultivates character among young people, provides them a first-rate education, while embracing traditional Finnish values and teaching in the tradition of the Lutheran faith. Because of Dr. Robert Ubbelohde's and Mrs. Susan Ubbelohde's leadership, Finlandia University will continue to grow and prosper for years to come. While they will be missed at Finlandia University by the students and staff, this retirement is well deserved. Madam Speaker, I would ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Dr. Robert and Mrs. Susan Ubbelohde on their well deserved retirement and in thanking them for their decades of service to higher education.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 17, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 18

10:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine growth trends in health care premiums for active and retired federal employees.

SD-342

MAY 21

Time to be announced

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S.1352, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 127 East Locust Street in Fairbury, Illinois, as the "Dr. Francis Townsend Post Office Building", H.R. 1402, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 South Lecanto Highway in Lecanto, Florida, as the "Sergeant Dennis J. Flanagan Lecanto Post Office Building", H.R. 414, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 60 Calle McKinley, West in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, as the "Miguel Angel Garcia Mendez Post Office Building", H.R. 625, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4230 Maine Avenue in Baldwin Park, California, as the "Atanacio Haro-Marin Post Office", H.R. 988, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5757 Tilton Avenue in Riverside, California, as the "Lieutenant Todd Jason Bryant Post Office", H.R. 437, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 West Eisenhower Street in Rio Grande City, Texas, as the "Lino Perez, Jr. Post Office", and the nomination of Howard Charles Weizmann, of Maryland, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

S-216, Capitol

2 p.m.

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To continue hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the National Institutes of Health: A New Vision for Medical Research.

SD-116

MAY 22

Time to be announced

Veterans' Affairs

Business meeting to markup the nomination of Michael K. Kussman, of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Room to be announced

9 a.m.

Armed Services

SeaPower Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

SR-222

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Employment and Workplace Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the progress of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act (Public Law 109-236).

SD-628

Finance

To hold hearings to examine tax policy in the pipeline, focusing on oil and gas.

SD-215

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of James R. Keith, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Malaysia, Miriam K. Hughes, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, Hans G. Klemm, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, and Cameron R. Hume, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia.

SD-419

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine restoring habeas corpus, focusing on protecting American values and the Great Writ.

SD-226

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold joint hearings with the House Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia to examine Government Accountability Office Personnel reforms, focusing on expectations.

2154RHOB

Armed Services

Personnel Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

SR-232A

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine minority entrepreneurship, focusing on the effectiveness of the Small Business Administration programs for the minority business community.

SR-428A

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine rail safety reauthorization.

SR-253

12:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Airland Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

SR-222

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine improving air service to small and rural communities.

SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources

Energy Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S.645, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to provide an alternate sulfur dioxide removal measurement for certain coal gasification project goals, S.838, to authorize funding for eligible joint ventures between United States and Israeli businesses and academic persons, to establish the International Energy Advisory Board, S.1089, to amend the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act to allow the Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects to hire employees more efficiently, S.1203, to enhance the management of electricity programs at the Department of Energy, H.R. 85, to provide for the establishment of centers to encourage demonstration and commercial application of advanced energy methods and technologies, and H.R. 1126, to reauthorize the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988.

SD-366

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the case for the California waiver.

SD-406

3 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine implementing Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reform, focusing on the preparation for the 2007 hurricane season.

SD-342

4 p.m.

Armed Services

Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

SR-222

5:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

SR-232A

<p>MAY 23</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Judiciary Crime and Drugs Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine rising crime in the United States, focusing on the federal role in helping communities prevent and respond to violent crime. SD-226</p> <p>Veterans' Affairs To hold hearings to examine health legislation. SD-562</p> <p>10 a.m. Commerce, Science, and Transportation To hold hearings to examine communications, taxation and federalism. SR-253</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008. SR-222</p> <p>1:30 p.m. Judiciary To hold hearings to examine S.1257, to provide the District of Columbia a voting seat and the State of Utah an additional seat in the House of Representatives, focusing on ending taxation without representation. SD-226</p> <p>2:30 p.m. Armed Services Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008. SR-222</p>	<p>Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Security and International Trade and Finance Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine United States economic relations with China, focusing on strategies and options on exchange rates and market access. SD-538</p> <p>MAY 24</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Armed Services Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008. SR-222</p> <p>10 a.m. Commerce, Science, and Transportation To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael E. Baroody, of Virginia, to be Chairman and Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and Charles Darwin Snelling, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. SR-253</p> <p>Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine federal real property, focusing on the property management problems highlighted in a recent Government Accountability Office report. SD-342</p>	<p>Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe To hold hearings to examine Russia, focusing on the reemergence of Russia as a major political and economic power. B318RHOB</p> <p>3 p.m. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Disaster Recovery Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine issues relative to residents of Louisiana affected by Hurricane Katrina or Rita, focusing on the goals, costs, management and impediments facing Louisiana's Road Home Program. SD-342</p> <p>JUNE 13</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Veterans' Affairs Business meeting to markup pending legislation. SD-562</p> <p>10 a.m. Rules and Administration To hold hearings to examine nominations to the Federal Election Commission. SR-301</p> <p>JUNE 27</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Veterans' Affairs To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense, focusing on cooperation on employment issues. SD-562</p>
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